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SERMON

Preach'd at the

FUNERAL

OF

Mrs. Catherine Lorrain,
Lately Deceased,

In the Parish Church of

St. ANDREW in Holborn,

On Wednesday the 27th. of June, 1705.

By HENRY SHUTE, M. A. Chaplain to the Right
Honourable Edward Earl of Orford, and Lecturer
of White-chappel.

Published at the Earnest Request of her dear Relations.

L O N D O N, &

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Ann Popham her Booke

SERMON

THE



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*The Gift of
Ann Robert*

TO THE
Relations and Friends
OF
Mrs. Catherine Lorrain.

Lately Deceased.

AS this Sermon was preach'd, so
it is now publish'd in comply-
ance with your earnest Desire.
I shall not apologize for the shortness
of the Time allotted for its Composure,
or for the Meanness of the Perfor-
mance: Such as it is, be pleased to ac-
cept; and if it may be any ways use-
ful to promote the good Estate of
their Souls who shall peruse it; if it
may excite any to a serious Consid-
eration of the Frailty of humane Life,
and

The Dedication.

and the indispenfible Necessity of a religious Conversation in order to a happy Dissolution; if it may contribute any thing to make People more thoughtful of that Day, when their Bodies shall return to the Earth, and their Souls to God who gave them, I shall then obtain my End both in the Preaching and Publishing of it.

Who am,

My good Friends,

Your Affectionate Humble Servant

HENRY SHUTE

Eccles. XII. Ver. vii.

shall the Dust return to the Earth as it was, and the Spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

MAN is a wonderful Creature; his Soul represents Heaven, his Body the Earth; one comes from above the other from beneath; and they point to their Source and Original, to the Spring from whence they flow. That in Man the upper and the nether world are united, and the Map of both higher and lower Regions) is drawn in two Globes. And therefore, as we not marvel, that God enter'd into a Consultation about his Make, since his frame was to be a Microcosm or little world, on which was impress'd the Image of his Maker: So it may justly abate our wonder, that the Devil (after himself had
B apostatised

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apostatized from the Father of Light should shoot all the Arrows of his Malice and Envy at this admirable Creature, and never rest till he had drawn him into Sin and Death, and Misery.

Death was the necessary Consequence of Sin, for God had peremptorily threaten'd it upon Man's Disobedience; the one on the other; So that if the Enemy could persuade him to transgress the Command of God, it was an easie matter to render him obnoxious to the Punishment, which must attend it, as the Shadow doth the Substance.

Thus Death came in, and from the Venom flow'd: Thus, that no Weed sprung up, a Weed which all ever since have been forced to smell, and as they smell they swoon'd, and fall. And yet as dreadful a thing Death seems to be, it causes no Annihilation; tho' the Person ceases, yet the Materials, of which the Frame was composed do not vanish into nothing: For,

ext informs us. Then shall the Dust re-
turn to the Earth, as it was, and the Spirit shall
return unto God who gave it.

There being two distinct Propositions in
the Text, one relating to the Body, the
other to the Soul, we must consider them
separately, and enquire,

First, As to the Body.

How Man's Body can be said to be
Dust?

How that Body returns to Earth?

Secondly, As to the Soul.

What the Soul is?

For what end it returns to God that gave it?

begin with the Body. And,

How can Man's Body be said to be Dust?

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This seems to be contrary to Job's Description of it, Chap. x. ver. 10. *Hast Thou not poured me out as Milk, and curdled me like Cheese? Thou hast clothed me in Skin and Flesh, and hast fenced me in Bones and Sinews. And may all this be called only Dust? Yes surely. For Dust was the Original of all. For so we read of the first Man, who gave Being to all his Progeny, Gen. xi. 7. And the Lord God formed Man of the Dust of the Ground. The great Architect transform'd that Dust into Flesh, and his Omnipotent Word, out of Clay framed this curious Building.*

The soft and tender Earth yeilded to his sovereign Power; and that which before was only as a Rope of Sand, (being gathered and managed by an Almighty Architect) went together, and closed into a solid substance. It's true, the Body of Man appears different from the first Material: So it differs from the Ashes out of which it was produced, yet still the Original is Dust. Thus all the Flesh of Beasts derives its life from the Dust too, Gen. i. 24. *And the Workmanship, used in the Creation*

Disposition of *their* Flesh, differs from the Embroidery in Man's Body, yet one as well as the other owe their Being from their Mother Earth. If a Chymist can extract and draw a Body different from the Materials or Ingredients used in the Operation, much more might the God of Nature change Dust into Flesh, and from a Courser Body make a finer, and transform the unshapen Clay into a glorious Creature. But we are told here,

II. *That Man's Body returns to the Earth it was.*

Of this we need no other Demonstration than Experience. For let a Body lie a while in the Coffin or the Grave, when you open it, the Dust and Earth will appear, and all the former solid Mass lie scatter'd into *Atoms*. Gums, and Juices, and Spices, may indeed for a while preserve it, and the Rich, by Art, may give it a seemingly longer Duration: But Time works all the Practice of Surgery, and the Embalmer's Care is eluded by the Succession

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sion of Ages. Here Kings and Princes have no greater Privilege than the meanest Peasant; and the Monarch that sits Commanding on the Throne, turns to Dust as well as the wild Arab, that lived in the meanest Cottage. In some Ground a humane Body may be corrupted in a short time, in some other, supported and preserved to a longer Duration; but all meet at last the same common Dust. And yet, when the Body returns to the Earth, we are assured it shall not continue mingled with it for ever. We see what a mighty Force it hath here on Earth, and what Life it puts into the dead Particles of Stones and Minerals, and raises them into nobler Substances. And who can tell, but that in the general Conflagration of the World, when all the Elements shall melt with fervent Heat; Who can tell, I say, but this universal Fire may give a new Activity to the scatter'd Atoms of Mens Bodies, and so reunite them into their former Shape especially when that Fire is directed, by infinite Wisdom, to effect the great Work of the Resurrection. But whether this

the Method or no, sure we are, from
 that our Saviour tells us, *Joh. v. 28.* That
 the Hour is coming, in the which all that are
 in the Graves shall hear his Voice, and shall
 come forth, they that have done Good, unto the
 Resurrection of Life; and they that have done
 Evil, unto the Resurrection of Damnation. Even
 gardeners we know will throw great Quan-
 tities of Weeds into a Pit, where rotting,
 they in time produce a richer Earth. So
 Man's Body lies rotting in the Grave, which
 is nothing else but a Preparative to a new
 Plantation; and consequently to a Re-
 surrection. Night dies into Day, and
 Trees and Herbs do, as it were, give up
 the Ghost in Winter, to appear again in
 Spring, in a more glorious Livery;
 Man's Body returns to Earth, not to
 continue there, but to rise again in the great
 Morning of that Day, when God shall judge
 the Secrets of Men by Christ Jesus. For he
 appointed a Day, in the which he will judge
 the World in Righteousness, by that Man whom
 he hath ordained, *Acts xvii. 31.* And let so
 much suffice for the Body.

Let

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Let us consider, *Secondly*, What relates to the Soul. And this, it's said in the Text *shall return unto God who gave it.* And here

I. *What is the Soul.*

It is something great and magnificent tho' we cannot well define the Nature of

The Almighty God, who at first breath'd this vital Substance into Man, can only tell what the Constitution of it is.

We feel that there is something in it of a vast Extent, that causes almost infinite Thoughts, and infinite Desires; and is fitted for Communion with Angels, and with God, and to do things beyond what Man and Flesh can do.

We find that there is something in it which can carry a Man above him, and raise him above the World; something that can fly beyond Sense; and surmount all Things visible and terrestrial; something that can reason, and argue, and deliberate, and consider, and meditate, and lose it

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Contemplation, Something that is
capable of understanding that there is a
God; a Providence, and a Judgment to
come; and can encourage it self by Pro-
mises, and frighten it self by Threatnings,
to Action; *And that's the Soul.* A
creature, which hath a Beginning, but no
ending; that cannot be arrested by Officers
of Justice, nor imprisoned in the Grave by
Death; that can mock the proudest Tyrant;
that cannot be kill'd by the severest Tor-
ments; no more than the Air can be stabbd
by Swords, or the Wind be destroy'd
by Elementary Fire.

We cannot dissect or anatomize it, as we
the Members of the Body; and its Ope-
rations are so subtle and so fine, that the
best Eye cannot perceive their going
or coming in. It is something that
is like Light, and is indeed a Light
into the Body, by the great Father
of Lights. For which Reason Solomon
saith, *The Candle of the Lord, or the Lamp*
of the Lord, Prov. 26. 27. A curious Expre-
ssion, and which may afford most excellent
Specula-

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Speculations. It is to light the Body the Dark; it is to guide, to direct, and govern it, in its Steps. And tho' sometimes, like an *Ignis fatuus*, it leads in crooked and forbidden Paths, when the greasy or unctuous Body darkens it Splendor, yet it is intended to light Man in the Ways of Peace, and Righteousness, Holiness. But,

II. *For what End does this Soul return to God that gave it?*

i. It returns to Him, to give an Account of its Stewardship; what it hath gained by trading; what Profit it hath reaped by various Means of Grace it enjoy'd; Advantages it hath gotten by being in the Church of God; surrounded with Examples, encouraged by Promises, press'd by Motives and Incentives to Goodness. God hath sent it, as it were, into a good Country (so Earth may be truly called in Respect to Heaven.) God hath sent it thither to display its Lustre in the Darkness of the Body, to promote the Glory of its Maker, to exercise in self Righteousness, Faith, Charity, Humility, Self-

and such like Christian Virtues; to wor-
 ship its Creator in Prayers and Praises, to
 shun that which is Evil, and to cleave to
 that which is Good. And thereby to let
 Light shine before Men, that they may
 see its good Works, and glorifie their Father
 which is in Heaven. This is the Work,
 the Exercise, the Employment upon which
 the Soul is sent into the Body, and the
 world. The Time therefore must come
 at last, when the great Master will reckon
 with his Servant, to whose Care and Pru-
 dence he hath committed his Goods.
 That is that Time; so that now the Soul
 is summoned to bring in her Day-Book,
 before the glorious Judge of Heaven and
 Earth, and to account to him what Re-
 ceives she hath made. To declare how his
 Word hath wrought upon her; how his
 Spirit hath prevailed with her; how she
 hath thriven under all the Showers and
 Benedictions of Heaven; how she hath re-
 sisted Temptations; how she hath fought
 against Sin; how she hath laboured in
 the Lord's Vineyard, and what Effects Gods
 Mercies have had upon her; how his

Mercies and Patience have led her to Repentance.

2. To him the Soule returns, to receive the Sentence of Absolution or Condemnation, according as her Works have been here. According as she hath been either tractable or stubborn, either yielding or fractious to Gods Will; according as she hath either broke off her known Sins, continued in them, according as she hath either delayed her Repentance, or betime applied her self to serious Thought, according as she hath been either charitable or uncharitable; either meek or cholerick; either chaste or lustful; either sober or passionate or covetous; either given to Sobriety or to Excesses; according as she hath exercised Self-denial, or indulged her self in sinful Pleasures; according as she hath delighted in God, or had an Aversion from him; so the Sentence will pass upon her, either of Absolution or Reprobation. Either Well done thou good and faithful Servant. Or, Cast ye the unprofitable Servant into Darkness. Either Come ye Blessed of my

her, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you? Or,
 Depart from me ye Cursed into everlasting Fire.
 Either, I know by Works, and by Labour, and by
 Patience. Or, I know you not, depart from me ye
 Workers of Iniquity. For this Reason the Soul
 returns to God that gave it, and inspired it.
 And if you ask me, why the Soul returns to
 God before the Body? The answer is, ealie.
 God's Business is chiefly with the Soul,
 which alone was capable of knowing Good
 and Evill. The Soul is the principal Agent,
 in Matters agreeable or disagreeable to his
 Will, and consequently the Soul will be
 the principal Enjoyer or Sufferer. The
 Body follows the Motions of the Soul, there-
 fore the Soul is the chiefaine of Criminal-
 ty. The Body is but Servant, the Soul is the Ma-
 ster, and as she fares with her, so it will
 fare with the Servant also. First the Soul
 was made good, and then the Body.
 The Soul returns to God that gave it,
 to enjoy the pious Soul, to enjoy the Reward
 of her holy Labours, such as Reward as she
 is capable of, before the great Day of the
 Resurrection. The full Reward is reserved

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ved to that solemn time, when Body and Soul must appear together before the great Judge of Quick and Dead. But she hath a Reward immediately, upon her returning to God, a Reward consisting in a Felicity, beyond what is called for under the Sun. A Reward which is attended with wonderful Joys and a joyful Expectation of the perfect Retribution in the last Day; a Reward which consists in seeing of God, in seeing his Beauty, Glory, Splendour, Power and Goodness, in a more eminent and far clearer Manner than can be seen here below. A Reward which as much transcends the greatest Bliss on Earth, as the Wisdom of the wisest Man doth the Apprehensions of a sucking Child, or the little Ideas of a Babe in the Cradle. A Reward which still grows bigger, as the great Day approaches. A Reward consisting in rich Communication of Light and Love, which keep the Soul as it were, in a perpetual ecstasy and uninterrupted Admiration of what God hath done for her, and will do for her, and for all them also that love the appearing of the Lord Jesus.

But that you may not run away with these Notions, and think it enough to have heard them, give me Leave in the last Place, to make some additional Remarks by Way of Application.

I. We see here what Reason we have to be humbled when we reflect upon our Bodies, and what Reason to be elevated above the World, when we look upon our Souls.

May not the Consideration of our Bodies serve to humble us? It's true, there are certain Creatures among us, that think of nothing but what makes for the Ease and Softness of their Flesh, and pride themselves therein. We expect not, that their looking upon the Body should make any great Alteration in their Minds or Lives. But still, Blessed be God, there are Persons that will consider, and be edified, and so is wise will ponder these Things, and shall understand the Loving Kindness of the Lord. Nay, how can we forget falling into humble Thoughts of our selves,

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selves, if we behold what we are, whence we came, and to what we must return. O Man! thou art Dust, from Dust thou camest, and to Dust thy Body must return. And shall Dust be proud? Shall Dust exalt it self? Shall Dust oppress and dominee over its Neighbour? Shall Dust be self-conceited or guilty of self-Admiration? What inconsistent Things are these?

Nay the Consideration of thy being Dust may put thee in Mind that thou hast rebelled against God, apostarized from Him, hearkened to the Devil, made thy self miserable, lost thy Soul, and forfeered thy Title to Happiness. For upon the Sentence of our first Parents, God pronounced *Dust thou art, and to Dust thou shalt return Gen. iii. 19.* And that from an immortal State, thou art become mortal, frail, weak, and dying every Moment. And do not then such a Reflection on thy Body serve to mortify thy vain Desires, thy ambitious Thoughts, and thy arrogant Imagination?

Therefore whenever any proud, high, supercilious Thoughts arise in thy mind, either of thy self, or against thy Neighbour, throw Dust upon them; remember thou art Dust in thy Original, and shalt shortly return to Dust again, and when these Swarms will be dispers'd, and these Bladders break.

On the other Hand, behold how the extensive Contemplation of the Noble extension of your Souls will elevate you above these transitory Objects, above the little things which Children and Fools admire. Do your Souls come from above, will you make them Drudges here below? Is their Descent from Heaven, will you debase them into earthly mindedness? Are they God-like Spirits, will you make them wallow like swine in the Mire? Were they made to command, and will you thrust them into servitude? Were they Princes born, and will you make them Servants of Servants? Are they capable (like Fire) of ascending mounting upwards, and will you press them

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them down against their natural Inclination? Are they able, (by the Use of proper Means) to have their Conversation in Heaven, and will you employ them in the Devil's Service? With what Detestation should you look upon those monstrous Vices and Sins, that you see so many Thousands ruin themselves by? What a beastly is Drunkenness? What brutish acts of Fury, Wrath, and Malice? How like a Bear, or Wolf, or Tyger, doth the Choric man act, and behave himself? How like a Goat and Swine doth the lustful Person live? How like a Mole, how like an Earth-Worm, doth the Covetous Miser grovel in Dirt? How like Satan doth the grateful Wretch act, that rewards his God with Hatred and Contempt? Such Extravagancies and Enormities you ought to shun as offensive to God, and destructive to your Souls. Which being sent to see the living God, and to exercise themselves in Goodness; What a Reverse of God's Design must it be, to employ them about Things which make Heaven mourn, Hell laugh, and good Men weep,

our Consciences desolate and waste, and turn the Sanctuary of God into a heap of bones, and a Den of Thieves? What-
 er Sin therefore you are tempted to, re-
 spect on the noble Original of your Souls.
 Think they are of the *Eagle* kind, let them
 exult themselves in catching Flies. Re-
 member they are given you by God, who en-
 dowed them with glorious Faculties, and em-
 powered them to invoke the Assistance of the
 Holy Spirit, (which he has promised to give
 on your asking) to enable you to extir-
 pate Sin, to throw down the Powers of
 Darkness, to ruine the Devil's Kingdom, to
 slay the Tempter, and to force him to fly
 from you.

II. Since our Souls are to return to that
 who gave them, to return to give
 an Account of their Behaviour here,
 to receive their Sentence at his Mouth;
 is it not be our Interest, now, to imitate
 the excellent Servants we read of *Matt. xxv.*
 &c. That during their Masters Absence
 they attended their Business, followed their
 Work, lost no Time, increased their Stock,

enlarged their Virtues, busied themselves in trimming their Lamps, grew strong in the Grace of God, overcame the World, defeated the Devils Stratagems, and arrived at last to a Spiritual and Heavenly Temper. And therefore when the Master knocked, they could open to Him with Joy, and run and tell Him, Lord, thou hast deliveredst to me five Talents, behold I have gained besides them, five Talents more. And another Lord thou deliveredst unto me two Talents, behold I have gained two other Talents besides them. In this Case, the Soul can most comfortably return to that God who gave it, and rejoice that she is going to return to Her Maker, whose Face she shall behold in Glory.

Socrates rejoiced at Death, believing he should see Homer and Hesiod, and such excellent Men in the other World. Consider the Thoughts of such Men's Company make a Heathen Philosopher leave the World joyfully, and shall not a Holy Soul that hath had and enjoy'd the Love of God, shed abroad in her Bosom, rejoice to think that she is returning to that

who gave her? Now to offend Him no more, but to glorify Him; Now to forget Him no more, but to remember Him to Eternal Ages; Now to be deprived of His Company no more, but to live in His Presence; and that for ever. Such a Soul returns to God that gave Her, to participate of his Glories, to share in His Kindness, and to have Communion with Him in His everlasting Mansions. And therefore when Death comes to ravish her Body from her, she may justly cry out with old Simeon, *Lord now lettest thou thy Servant depart in peace, for mine Eyes have seen thy Salvation.*

As to our Dear Sister here departed; whose Funeral Rites we now celebrate; I had not that intimate Acquaintance with her, as, from my own Knowledge, to give you Her just Character. Yet from what I have occasionally observed, and by Accounts received from others that knew her well, I am abundantly satisfied that very much might (with Truth) be spoken in her Commemoration. Not that she her self, (when alive) secured the Praises of Men, nor that she needs

needs them now, being already in Possession of Heavenly Glory. But that we, by recounting some of her Virtues, and setting her eminent Graces before our Eyes, may both make them the matter of our Praise to God, and also the Copy and Example of our Christian Imitation.

She was born in the County of Lancaster of Virtuous and Religious Parents, who took great Care in her Childhood to season her Mind with the saving Principles of Christianity; and as she advanced in Years she did not forget to cultivate the good Seed so early sown, by constant reading the Scriptures, and other good Books, by daily Prayer, by religious Conversation, and frequenting the Holy Sacrament.

In the Year 1681. She was married to the Reverend Mr. Paul Lorrain, with whom she constantly lived to her dying Day, in the strictest Union, Fidelity, and conjugal Affection.

She was a Person of singular Piety and Devotion, meek and modest in her Behaviour, tender and compassionate to the afflicted, courteous and obliging to all, and great was her Humility, that she could not endure those Praises she so highly deserved.

She was not at all curious in adorning her Body, and little minded the Modes and Fashions of the Age; she was fully contented with her Condition and Station in the World, and very thankful to the Divine Providence for every Mercy she enjoyed.

The Worship of God both in publick and private, was her chiefest Pleasure and Delight; as she often retired to her Chamber, to the daily frequented the Prayers of the Church, and weekly received the blessed Sacrament; even then when she laboured under great Indisposition and Weakness of Body.

As

As long as Health and Strength
 Body would permit, she spent much
 Time in visiting, instructing and comfort-
 ing poor afflicted Christians, and relieving
 them too, according to her Ability. In this
 pious Work she was indefatigable, and
 hope successful; for being of an humble
 affable, charitable and religious Temper
 she could more effectually recommend
 Christian Virtues to those she conversed
 withal.

In the latter Part of her Life, she was
 much afflicted with Sickness and sore Dis-
 tempers, which she endured with great
 Patience and Submission to the Will of God.
 When lying under the most acute Pain of
 the Stone and Cholick, she was never heard
 to repine or murmur at Gods Dispensations
 to her; But in her greatest Misery her
 common Expressions and Breathing were
 these. O Father! Look upon me in Mercy.
 My sweet Saviour! Take Pity on me. O! give
 me Patience and Grace to learn of Thee;
 to suffer according to thy Will. And upon
 any Remission or Abatement of Pain, she

and to praising God, with all the
force and Vigour of her Soul.

When by her last Sickness, she was re-
duced to great Weakness and Extremity,
her Spiritual Strength did daily encrease,
and the Refreshments which her Soul then
received, were (as her self express'd it) un-
speakable and full of Glory.

On Wednesday, the 13th instant, she recei-
ved the Holy Eucharist, with her usual
devotion and Comfort, saying, That she
was under the Blessed Influence of the Spirit of
God upon her Soul, and saw Jesus Christ
on his Throne most Glorious, stretching out his
arms to receive her.

She was all along very apprehensive (but
in the least afraid) of her approaching
death, having wholly and joyfully resign-
ed her self to the Will and Disposal of
mighty God, in full Assurance of his
Mercy in and through Christ Jesus, her a-
dored Saviour and Redeemer.

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In this excellent Frame and Composition of Mind, she continued calling upon God and Saviour, and commending her Spirit into the Hands of her Blessed Redeemer who hath loved her, and washed her from her Sins in His own Blood. She resigned her Soul on the last Lord's Day about the usual time of her going to Church, and we here present accompanying her Body to Grave, *Her Dust must return to the Earth it was, as her Spirit is returned to God who gave it.*

May we all prepare to follow her, endeavour, by devout and holy Lives imitate such good Examples as have left the World in the Faith and Fear of God. That when we shall depart this Life, we may rest in Him, as our Hope is this our Saviour doth.

Now the God of Peace that brought us from the Dead our Lord Jesus, that good Shepherd of the Sheep, through the Blood of the everlasting Covenant, make you perfect

every good Work to do his Will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ. To whom be Glory for ever and ever. Amen,

F I N I S.

THE Holy Sacrament explain'd, or the Things to be known and done to make a Worthy communicant; with suitable Prayers and Meditations. By Dr. Gibson. Printed for Robert Whitledge the Bible in Creed-lane near Ludgate. Where fold also, All sorts of Bibles, Common-Prayers, and other Books of Christian Devotion, of the best Edition, neatly bound, and at reasonable rates.

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ry, ever and ever. Amen.

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